AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-29 (Canceled)

30. (Previously Presented) A method of lowering cholesterol in a mammal expressing a functional low density lipoprotein (LDL) receptor without inducing hypertriglyceridemia, said method comprising intravascularly administering to said mammal a replication-defective adenoviral vector comprising a nucleic acid encoding a secreted polypeptide having at least 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said nucleic acid does not encode amino acids 260-299 of SEQ ID NO:2 and said polypeptide, when expressed in said mammal, lowers the total serum cholesterol level without inducing hypertriglyceridemia.

31-33 (Canceled)

34. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein said vector is administered intravenously.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein said vector is administered to an artery at the site of a lesion.

37-42 (Canceled)

43. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein said mammal lacks an endogenous, normally functioning apoE gene.

44. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein said mammal is at risk for developing atherosclerosis due to accumulation of lipoprotein remnants in the bloodstream.

45-46 (Canceled)

47. (Original) The method claim of 30, wherein said nucleic acid is administered to or expressed in the liver of said mammal.

48-50 (Canceled)

51. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein said polypeptide ~~region~~ has 100% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

52. (Canceled)

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said polypeptide further

comprises a signal peptide.

54-55 (Canceled)

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said nucleic acid encodes residues 1-203 of an apoE preprotein of any one of SEQ ID Nos. 14-19.

57. (Canceled)

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said nucleic acid encodes residues 1-220 of an apoE preprotein of any one of SEQ ID Nos. 14-19.

59. (Canceled)

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said nucleic acid encodes residues 1-247 of an apoE preprotein of any one of SEQ ID Nos. 14-19.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said polypeptide consists of 277 amino acids.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said nucleic acid encodes residues 1-277 of an apoE preprotein of any one of SEQ ID Nos. 14-19.

63-71 (Canceled)

72. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53, wherein said signal peptide comprises a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13.

73-78 (Canceled)

79. (New) A method of lowering cholesterol in a mammal expressing a functional low density lipoprotein (LDL) receptor without inducing hypertriglyceridemia, said method comprising intravascularly administering to said mammal a replication-defective adenoviral vector comprising a nucleic acid encoding a secreted polypeptide having between 185 and 215 amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said nucleic acid does not encode amino acids 260-299 of SEQ ID NO:2 and said polypeptide, when expressed in said mammal, lowers the total serum cholesterol level without inducing hypertriglyceridemia.

80. (New) A method of lowering cholesterol in a mammal expressing a functional low density lipoprotein (LDL) receptor without inducing hypertriglyceridemia, said method comprising intravascularly administering to said mammal a replication-defective adenoviral vector comprising a nucleic acid encoding a secreted polypeptide consisting of amino acids 1-203 of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said nucleic acid does not encode amino acids 260-299 of SEQ ID NO:2 and said polypeptide, when expressed in said mammal, lowers the total serum cholesterol

level without inducing hypertriglyceridemia.

81. (New) A method of lowering cholesterol in a mammal expressing a functional low density lipoprotein (LDL) receptor without inducing hypertriglyceridemia, said method comprising intravascularly administering to said mammal a replication-defective adenoviral vector comprising a nucleic acid encoding a secreted polypeptide consisting of amino acids 1-220 of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said nucleic acid does not encode amino acids 260-299 of SEQ ID NO:2 and said polypeptide, when expressed in said mammal, lowers the total serum cholesterol level without inducing hypertriglyceridemia.

82. (New) A method of lowering cholesterol in a mammal expressing a functional low density lipoprotein (LDL) receptor without inducing hypertriglyceridemia, said method comprising intravascularly administering to said mammal a replication-defective adenoviral vector comprising a nucleic acid encoding a secreted polypeptide consisting of amino acids 1-247 of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said nucleic acid does not encode amino acids 260-299 of SEQ ID NO:2 and said polypeptide, when expressed in said mammal, lowers the total serum cholesterol level without inducing hypertriglyceridemia.

83. (New) A method of lowering cholesterol in a mammal expressing a functional low density lipoprotein (LDL) receptor without inducing hypertriglyceridemia, said method comprising intravascularly administering to said mammal a replication-defective adenoviral vector comprising a nucleic acid encoding a secreted polypeptide having at least 90% sequence

identity to amino acid residues 1-185 of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said nucleic acid does not encode amino acids 260-299 of SEQ ID NO:2 and said polypeptide, when expressed in said mammal, lowers the total serum cholesterol level without inducing hypertriglyceridemia.

84. (New) The method of claim 83, wherein said nucleic acid encodes a secreted polypeptide having at least 90% sequence identity to amino acid residues 1-202 of SEQ ID NO:2.

85. (New) The method of claim 84, wherein said nucleic acid encodes a secreted polypeptide having an amino acid sequence identical to amino acid residues 1-202 of SEQ ID NO:2.

86. (New) The method of claim 83, wherein said nucleic acid encodes a secreted polypeptide having at least 90% sequence identity to amino acid residues 1-229 of SEQ ID NO:2.

87. (New) The method of claim 86, wherein said nucleic acid encodes a secreted polypeptide having an amino acid sequence identical to amino acid residues 1-229 of SEQ ID NO:2.

88. (New) The method of claim 83, wherein said nucleic acid encodes a secreted polypeptide having at least 90% sequence identity to amino acid residues 1-259 of SEQ ID NO:2.

89. (New) The method of claim 88, wherein said nucleic acid encodes a secreted

polypeptide having an amino acid sequence identical to amino acid residues 1-259 of SEQ ID NO:2.